



Together We Grow

North Carolina Interagency Coordinating Council

Serving Children Ages Birth to Five with Disabilities and Their Families

Dear Colleague,

Highly qualified personnel are among the most powerful resources we have to support young children in achieving their potential. However, static and/or diminishing budgets, expanding responsibilities, and competing priorities make it challenging to assure that all personnel are competent and confident.

The Professional Education Committee (PEC) of the NC Interagency Coordinating Council (NC-ICC) has developed a resource we hope will assist decision makers, such as yourself, to allocate professional education resources more strategically. PEC members spent several months analyzing the requirements, standards and needs in nine key source documents related to preparing highly qualified personnel to serve children, ages birth to five years old, with and without disabilities. The resulting document (attached) identifies the top priorities for professional education. Details about the sources are provided on the second page of the document.

On February 22, 2007, the NC-ICC approved the document for broad dissemination to assist early childhood and early intervention colleagues plan and prioritize professional education opportunities for which they are responsible. We hope you will share this information with colleagues and use the document to:

- Inform decisions about topics for professional development efforts including,
 1. What topics should be addressed in workshops and trainings? What sequence of knowledge and skill building experiences should be offered?
 2. What human and material resources should be secured?
 3. What areas should supervisory personnel emphasize?
 4. What capacities should coaches and mentors build?
- Allocate funds for specific professional development efforts
- Advocate for funds to address priority topics
- Assist faculty members in revising current course content
- Inform decisions about offerings at local, regional and state professional development events (e.g., conferences, meetings)
- Survey staff regarding professional development priorities. For example, staff could be asked to rank order their own priorities for professional development, based on the topics listed.

The PEC is in the process of developing companion documents to support the use of this grid. The first companion will highlight sub-topics in each content area. The second and third companions will highlight human resources who could speak to each of the content areas and instructional resources (articles, videos, and websites).

For additional copies or to receive an electronic copy of a reproducible master of this document, please contact the NC-ICC central office at 919-662-4543 or via email at Karen.Chester@ncmail.net.

For additional information or questions, contact the members of the Professional Education Committee listed below or email pecmappingproj@listserv.unc.edu. Thank you for your interest in and support of this important endeavor.

Sincerely,
Susan Deans, PEC Professional Co Chair
Azell Reeves, PEC Parent Co Chair

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